

COUNTERDRUG MISSIONS

Since the mid-1980s, Civil Air Patrol has been an integral player in America's war on drugs. During 2001, CAP assisted in the confiscation or eradication of over a billion dollars in illegal drugs. CAP has assisted in the discovery of methamphetamine labs, cocaine seizures and various other operations throughout the country that have led to the seizure of illicit drugs, weapons and property. The Department of Defense and federal agencies such as the Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Customs Service, U.S. Forest Service, and numerous state and local law enforcement agencies routinely call on Civil Air Patrol to provide aerial reconnaissance and eradication support.

The Imperial Valley Drug Coalition Law Enforcement Center has integrated the California Wing of Civil Air Patrol as a permanent cell under its Operations Division. In this role, California Wing has assisted in the confiscation of \$118,000,000 in illegal substances from October 2000 to March 2001. The U.S. Forest Service operations chief at the center declared CAP "a vital operational asset in determining the success of counterdrug efforts by law enforcement agencies in the Imperial Valley Drug Coalition."

The Iowa Wing flew aerial reconnaissance and aerial photography missions in support of federal and state drug agents, which led to the arrest of six members of an international motorcycle gang with a long history of drug arrests in Iowa and around the world. Those arrested were charged with weapons possession and trafficking in methamphetamine, cocaine and marijuana.

The commanding officer of Patrol Squadron Eight U.S. Navy presented a commendation to the Maine Wing for their "superior performance in the training and professional development of Patrol Squadron Eight in the areas of airborne counterdrug surveillance and air-intercept procedures from 30 May to 1 June." The commendation read in part: "The superb airmanship and flexibility of the CAP pilots resulted in optimum utilization of airborne assets and provided outstanding training in this hazardous mission under the safest possible conditions. Through their skillful planning and flawless execution of these training missions a solid foundation in intercept training was provided for 36 naval aviators."

The Pennsylvania National Guard Counterdrug Program Coordinator formally commended Pennsylvania Wing for the support provided to their marijuana eradication operations in fiscal year 2001. The support and

dedication of the CAP volunteers enabled Pennsylvania's law enforcement agencies to seize 3,500 plants valued at \$5,250,000. The Michigan Wing was instrumental in the location and destruction of 800 marijuana plants with an estimated street value of \$2,000,000. The Maryland Wing was credited with discovering 750 marijuana plants worth \$1,875,000.

CAPNHQ

From: Imperial Valley Drug Coalition, US Forest Service
Sent: Thursday, September 06, 2001 12:14 PM
To: Headquarters, Civil Air Patrol
Subject: CAP support to IVDC

Gentlemen,

I have put together a few paragraphs describing the contribution CAP has made to the IVDC. During the past 3 years the Civil Air Patrol, California Wing has made significant contributions to the Imperial Valley Drug Coalition's efforts to stem the tide of illegal drugs entering this country from Mexico. Due to the rugged terrain and vast distances that must be patrolled by law enforcement, aerial observation is an essential element of any interdiction effort. The CAP, California Wing has provided expert aerial observation and monitoring support to the IVDC resulting in literally hundreds of sightings of suspicious activity on and near the US/Mexican border. This information, while of immediate value to law enforcement, is also of extreme value to our intelligence collections program. With few assets and dwindling resources, the Imperial County law enforcement community has come to depend on the CAP to extend and enhance its ability to detect and report suspected drug smuggling activity in very remote and inaccessible areas. Additionally, the CAP has successfully contributed to the US Border Patrol's efforts to detect and locate and rescue individuals and groups of immigrants stranded or lost in the desert thru active observation and monitoring of known border crossing corridors. The CAP has been thoroughly integrated into the IVDC counterdrug strategy and continues to play an active and important role. To date the participating agencies of the IVDC have due to the support provided by the CAP, have seized in excess of 288,000 pounds of marijuana and 15,000 pounds of cocaine. Of far greater value is CAP's direct contribution to the IVDC operational and strategic interdiction operations, greatly enhancing the participating agencies tactical capabilities, officer safety, intelligence collections, as well as observation and monitoring of known or suspected border crossing areas.

Charles Chase
USFS

COUNTERDRUG STATS



Wing	Missions	Sorties	Hours
Alabama	31	37	119.8
Alaska	3	16	64.5
Arizona	157	165	723.1
Arkansas	95	362	399.4
California	355	2,347	2,968.2
Colorado	20	53	100.6
Connecticut	4	45	71.2
Delaware	124	309	340.3
National Capital	4	19	46.0
Florida	157	385	484.9
Georgia	65	184	349.4
Hawaii	179	370	843.2
Idaho	171	291	441.0
Illinois	48	177	230.9
Indiana	175	890	619.4
Iowa	41	128	214.8
Kansas	3	13	15.4
Kentucky	186	388	917.3
Louisiana	205	350	648.9
Maine	80	127	304.7
Maryland	12	36	49.6
Massachusetts	0	0	0.0
Michigan	103	146	320.5
Minnesota	5	13	32.7
Mississippi	35	193	239.9
Missouri	7	27	32.2
Montana	30	130	217.0
Nebraska	9	60	82.3
Nevada	338	879	1,350.0
New Hampshire	4	28	21.5
New Jersey	88	109	158.5
New Mexico	121	494	1,039.4
New York	146	162	478.3
North Carolina	30	69	109.4
North Dakota	6	61	118.1
Ohio	8	21	33.5
Oklahoma	63	122	189.4
Oregon	4	7	20.3
Pennsylvania	44	521	937.1
Puerto Rico	22	27	47.7
Rhode Island	1	1	15.1
South Carolina	8	28	68.1
South Dakota	6	57	101.7
Tennessee	28	52	76.1
Texas	201	1,209	1,115.4
Utah	7	64	120.3
Vermont	24	57	84.7
Virginia	22	117	209.9
Washington	141	472	727.4
West Virginia	7	14	12.6
Wisconsin	147	205	400.3
Wyoming	1	4	18.7
Northeast	5	12	48.8
Congressional Squadron	13	18	46.6

Totals	3,789	12,071	18,728.1
---------------	--------------	---------------	-----------------

Celebrating Heritage and Innovation!